

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A friction clutch, comprising:
2 a housing arrangement having an axis of rotation; and
3 an intermediate plate arrangement coupled to said housing arrangement
4 for joint rotation therewith about the axis of rotation, and arrangeable for transmitting a
5 pressure force between two frictional output members, said intermediate plate
6 arrangement including two intermediate plate elements with an elastic prestressing
7 arrangement arranged therebetween, said intermediate plate elements being axially
8 displaceable with respect to one another counter to the action of said elastic
9 prestressing arrangement.
- 1 2. The friction clutch of claim 1, wherein at least one of said
2 intermediate plate elements comprises, on a side facing the other of said intermediate
3 plate elements, a recess for at least a partial reception of said prestressing
4 arrangement.
- 1 3. The friction clutch of claim 2, wherein said recess comprises an
2 annular depression.
- 1 4. The friction clutch of claim 1, wherein said intermediate plate
2 elements are held apart in a state of maximum axial extent, counter to a prestressing
3 action of said prestressing arrangement, by restraining members.

1 5. The friction clutch of claim 4, wherein said restraining members
2 comprise one of clinched bolts and screw bolts.

1 6. The friction clutch of claim 1, wherein said prestressing
2 arrangement comprises at least one spring element.

1 7. The friction clutch of claim 6, wherein said at least one spring
2 element comprises one of a cup spring, a corrugated spring, an elastomeric element or
3 a helical coil spring.

1 8. The friction clutch of claim 1, wherein at least one of said
2 intermediate plate elements includes one of a frictional surface or a frictional lining
3 element providing a frictional surface.

1 9. An intermediate plate arrangement for a friction clutch, the
2 intermediate plate arrangement comprising two intermediate plate elements and an
3 elastic prestressing arrangement arranged therebetween, said two intermediate plates
4 being displaceable with respect to one another counter to a force exerted by said elastic
5 prestressing arrangement.